



For immediate release

IDOC Museum Dedication: Reflections of Pride

NEW CASTLE, INDIANA (November 17, 2011) – The Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Correctional Training Institute hosted an open house on November 16th to celebrate the opening of the "Reflections of Pride: The History of the Indiana Department of Correction Museum."

The purpose of the museum is to create a repository to share the history of the Indiana Department of Correction with others throughout the state of Indiana. The IDOC currently has 21 adult and 6 juvenile facilities serving Indiana's 92 counties.

Indiana's rich correctional history began in 1792, while the state was still a part of the Northwest Territory. Indiana's penal facilities were then autonomous. The Northwest Territory Prison, a fort-style prison, operated near Lafayette. Another fort-style prison, operated by the French, was located near Vincennes.

Patrons of the museum discovered numerous artifacts of historic interest. Artifacts including books, documents, furniture, ledgers, newspaper articles, photographs, staff uniforms, contraband and hand-made weapons of offenders are on display as a result of donations from Department facilities, IDOC staff and families throughout the state.

Some of the artifacts include the original bell from the prison at Jeffersonville, the original hand-written sentencing decree and intake documents for inmate #1, security and personal protection equipment, and displays of Indiana's most notorious inmates including John Dillinger and Charles Manson.

Museum visitors were awed by the artifacts, displays and viewing a video history of the Indiana Department of Correction. The museum was filled with laughter, conversation, and occasional silence while over 100 curious patrons stepped back in time.

Bruce Lemmon, Commissioner of the IDOC, noted he was "excited and very impressed by the exhibit of the original Jeffersonville prison, and all the contributions of items from throughout the state."

Richard Curry, Executive Director of Staff Development Emergency Operations for the IDOC, applauded Department staff for their contributions to the museum. Director Curry went on to say, "This is a great day to celebrate our history and introduce others to our past. We hope to get more items for the museum."

For further information or to donate items to the museum, please contact Matt Andrick at 765 521-0230 ext: 5004, or via MAndrick@idoc.in.gov

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Media Contact:

Douglas S. Garrison

Chief Communications Officer

dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov

(317) 232-5780